

HARTFORD TREE BOARD MINUTES

*Date June 27, 2023 | time 5 pm | Meeting called to order by Jeff Arnold*_____

Commission Members In Attendance

Jeff Arnold, Gaal Shepherd Crowl, David Barrell, Leif Smedman, Alan Haehnel, Clare Forseth

Commission Members Absent

None

Others in Attendance

Scott Hausler, Director of Parks and Recreation

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Jeff Arnold . Seconded by: David Barrell

In Favor All _____ Opposed None _____

The motion was Approved or Disapproved? Approved

Citizen Comments

None

Commission Member Comments

None

Directors Report

None

Old Business

1) Tree Warden Report - Need to tag invasive shrubs for removal on July 8th when the community will be invited to do their removal (the Board later decided to postpone this activity).

Jim Henerson was not at the meeting. The Board would like to talk to Jim and Slyvia about the trees in their nursery and whether they would be for sale.

2) Introduction of new member Alan Haehnel:

Alan grew up in the Jericho district and felt he now had time to volunteer and give back to the town. He chose the Tree Board because of his love of trees. He will be officially approved by the Select Board at their June 27th meeting. Alan's first assignment will be to water the tree nursery the first half of July.

3) Plan on how best to implement the invasive removal day on July 8th and how to do outreach for it. Should we plant some indigenous species from our nursery at that time?

Due to the discovery of poison ivy at the site, the Board decided to reschedule the July 8th removal of invasives until the poison ivy can be mitigated. A solution of a gallon of 10% vinegar, a cup of salt, and one tablespoon of Dawn detergent can be sprayed to kill the leaves of the poison ivy. Scott and Jeff will connect to purchase the vinegar.

4) Review of what we learned at the Arbor Day Conference:

Jeff reported that Vermont has 12 million urban trees which is 31% coverage. 40% coverage is ideal. Hartford was the first town to start a tree inventory in 2013. Deep rooted trees are recommended for street trees as they don't crack sidewalks. Small trees are also recommended. Fruit and nut trees are suggested to plant at schools and housing sites. Hazel nuts produce nuts in 3 years while black walnuts take much longer, from 7-12 years. UVM does soil tests for free. Elderberry plants grow thick. The Vermont Center for Eco-studies might be a good source of help for the Board. Growing around new planted trees will increase nitrogen in the soil.

Gaal will have information to share at the July meeting.

5) Review of my visit with Joanne Garton to enter data into the state inventory system.

Jeff and Joanne retained the fact that elms were previously planted where the new tulip, tupelo and black walnut trees are now planted in the inventory system. Jeff will take charge of the inventory equipment. The inventory allows you to enter information about each tree including the history, chemical treatments for EAB, when planted and pruned etc. It is possible to identify and locate a tree in the inventory without physically going to the tree's location if you have identified it previously or by using Google Earth.

6) Review the status of trees ordered from NN: 2 Yellowwoods, a Swamp Oak, a Katsura and a Sycamore and when they will get planted. Scott paid for the trees. Jim LaMontagne and Timber Tender have been contacted about planting the trees. The dead trees in front of Juel trees may be replaced by DPW.

7) We now have 8 gator bags to water freshly planted trees. How do we water trees that are not located near a spigot? Should we purchase a water reservoir that can be transported in the back of a pick up truck? Time did not allow for decisions on this topic. Clare has the 8 water gator bags that were purchased.

8) Discuss the status of the cottonwood stakes and the other plantings by the road bridge. The stakes appear to have been all killed by a combination of a hard frost and no rain.

The Board discussed the best way to get rid of the knotweed that is growing back aggressively. It was mentioned that the Vermont Institute of Natural Science class on removing invasive plants, said to cut the knotweed and put it on pallets to dry it out and smother the plants. This could be a five year plan. David will contact Carpet Mill and see if there is some throw away carpet that we could use to smother the knotweed. David made a motion to buy rolls of plastic and Gaal seconded the motion. The Board unanimously voted to buy rolls of plastic to apply over the knotweed.

9) Tree of the Month report: The yellowwood by the High School will be the July Tree of the Month.

New Business

Agenda Items for Next Commission Meeting

Gaal's reporting on the Arbor Day Conference.

Next Meeting

July 18, 2023 at 5 PM at Hartford Town Hall

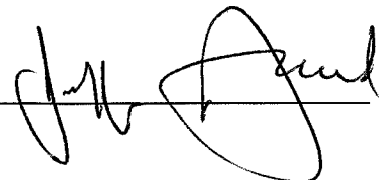
Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by: Jeff Arnold No Quorum _____

Seconded by: Gaal Shepherd

All in Favor: All Opposed: None

Respectfully submitted by: Clare Forseth Signature: _____



Date: June 29, 2023

Hartford Tree Board Commission Members

- Jeff Arnold, Chair (03/07/2025)
- Clare Forseth, Secretary (11/15/2024)
- David Barrell, Treasurer (06/01/2023)
- Leif Smedman, Member (06/01/2023)
- Gaal Shepherd Cowl (10/01/25)
- Alan Haehnel (06/27/26)
- Vacant (1 position)
- Jim Henderson, Tree Warden